



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**Contact: Kena Rice**

(316) 269-6481

**Headquarters**  
1200 Epic Center  
301 N. Main  
Wichita, Kansas 67202  
(316)269-6481  
FAX (316)269-6484

**Topeka Office**  
444 Quincy  
Topeka, Kansas 66683

**Kansas City Office**  
500 State Avenue  
Suite 360  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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## CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE ON COCAINE CHARGES

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Darrell Triplett**, 35, Altadena, California, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson to life in federal prison without parole.

Melgren said that Triplett entered a guilty plea on September 22, 2003, the fifth day of his jury trial, following cross-examination, to one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine and one count of possession with the intent to distribute cocaine.

Triplett admitted at his plea that on October 27, 2002, a co-defendant he had recruited to drive a Plymouth Voyager, was stopped for a traffic violation by the Kansas Highway Patrol on I-70 in Geary County, Kansas. The troopers searched the Plymouth Voyager and found approximately twenty-three kilograms (approximately 50.6 pounds) of cocaine wrapped in duct tape and sealed in vacuum packed bags in a false compartment built in the rear of the Plymouth. Triplett was following in another vehicle and calling that driver regularly on a cellular phone to determine progress of the load. Triplett was arrested near St. Louis, Missouri. At his change of plea hearing, Triplett admitted that starting in January 2002, he had arranged for others at his behest to transport drugs and money for him on numerous occasions including eight or nine trips to Jackson, Mississippi; ten trips to Cleveland, Ohio; nine to twelve trips to Chicago, Illinois, nine to ten trips to Cincinnati, Ohio; and six trips to California.

Co-defendant **Mandy Marie Isenhauer**, 25, Michigan, was sentenced on November 3, 2003, to three years supervised release.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough in this investigation.